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FARMERS' INSTITUTES, 1929

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Cooperative Extension Work in Agriculture and Home Economics

Extension Service Circular 120 February, 1930

FARMERS' INSTITUTES, 1929

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During the fiscal year ended June 30, 1929, farmers' institutes were officially conducted as a State-wide activity in 11 States. This is two States less than held farmers' institutes last year and is equal to the number holding institutes the previous year.

When we consider the amount of money contributed by the federal government for cooperative extension work in each State together with State offset funds and county and private contributions, it is surprising to find that Iowa farmers and others in the neighborhood where farmers' institutes were held this year have again contributed to this work the sum of $17,748.86, which is more than last year, and again equal to more than four times the State appropriation of $4,295.51 for farmers' institutes. Likewise in Indiana the State appropriation of $13,594.17 for farmers' institutes was augmented by private contributions, mostly from farmers, of $19,973.93, which is more than one and one-half times the State funds, and is $323.23 more than the private subscription last season, which likewise was more than one-half times the State appropriation. Also the farmers and other private individuals in South Dakota contributed $3,454.39 for farmers' institutes this year, which is more than twice the State appropriation of $1,697.61 for this work, while the private contributions of $1,700.00 in Georgia was over one-and one-half times the State appropriation of $1,040.71 used for farmers' institutes. These four instances of private contributions, mostly from farmers which exceed the State appropriation from one and one-half to more than four times together with private donations of $4,865.00 in Illinois and $12,430.26 in Ohio as a supplement to their already large State appropriation for farmers' institute work show that in these six States at least many farmers must believe they are getting some benefit from farmers' institutes which is not fully met by the other and newer phases of extension or county agent work.

DISTRIBUTION: A copy of this circular has been sent to each extension director, State and assistant State county agent leader, State and assistant State home demonstration leader, State and assistant State club leader, negro supervisor, State agricultural college library, and State experiment station library.

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No new developments or changes have occurred either in the conduct or in the management of farmers' institutes during the year. The extension division of the college of agriculture in each State now has complete charge of farmers' institutes with the exception of Iowa and Maine, where it is vested in the State Department of Agriculture, and Illinois where a State Department of Farm Institutes conducts all such activities. These three exceptions, however, do not result in a duplication of effort or a distinct or independent line of instruction since in each one it is completely lined up and cooperates with the organized extension service at the college of agriculture and the agriculture, home demonstration and club agent work in the counties, the activities of which are simply supplemented, reinforced and supported.

Controlled through State Departments.

In the three States where farmers' institutes are directed and managed by the State department there were held this year 482 institutes lasting 1,008 days with 2,619 sessions at which the attendance was 245,192 persons. The instruction was given by 414 persons, of whom none were members of the extension service but 37 were from experiment station staffs, 12 from State departments of agriculture personnel and 147 were mostly farmers and farm women engaged for the purpose because of noteworthy accomplishments on their own farms or in their own homes. The total cost of these institutes was $59,273.51, derived from special State appropriations for the purpose amounting to $36,659.65 and $22,613.86 contributed by farmers and other local people in the neighborhood of the institutes.

In comparison with the previous year's report of farmers' institutes conducted by State departments this year shows a decrease in the number of institutes, attendance and amount of money expended, but an increase in the number of days and sessions held.

Controlled through Colleges of Agriculture.

The eight States conducting farmers' institutes this year under the direction of the colleges of agriculture held a total of 2,118 institutes which lasted 2,933 days, comprised 6,410 sessions and were attended by 1,021,292 persons. They employed 315 instructors of whom 85 were members of the extension force, 23 from experiment station staffs, 15 from the State departments of agriculture personnel, and 192 from other sources, mostly farmers and farm women hired for the purpose during the institute season. The cost of these institutes was $108,358.45. Of this amount $70,739.62 was derived from State appropriations for the purpose, and $37,618.83 from other sources, mostly local contributions by farmers and others in the regions of the meetings.

In comparison with the previous year's report of farmers' institutes conducted by the colleges of agriculture this year shows a slight increase in the number of institutes, but a slight decrease in the number of days, sessions, attendance and money expended.

All States Holding Farmers' Institutes.

The eleven States conducting farmers' institutes this year held an aggregate of 2,600 institutes extending over a period of 3,941 days and comprising 9,029 sessions at which a total of 1,266,484 persons were in attendance: The instruction at these institutes was given by 729 persons, of whom 85 were members of the extension force, 60 from experiment station staffs, 27 from State departments of agriculture personnel, and 339 from outside sources. Those from outside sources were mostly actual practising farmers and farm women selected and hired during the institute season because of their success and reputation for having actually done the things on their own farms or in their own homes under normal conditions, as well as for their ability to tell others how they did it. Farmers have confidence in and appreciate such instruction and are more likely to put their teachings into practice because they are less skeptical regarding practicability. The cost of these institutes was $167,631.96 of which $107,399.27 was from State appropriations for farmers' institute work and $60,232.89 from local contributions.

In comparison with the previous year's report of farmers' institutes conducted by both State departments and colleges of agriculture this year shows a slight increase in the number of institutes held, days lasting and sessions held but a slight decrease in number of persons in attendance and in the amount of money expended.

Farmers' institute work differs in quality as well as in quantity in the several States. A detailed statement of the number of farmers' institutes conducted and the extent of their work during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1929 will be found in the accompanying tables in which States are grouped according to the two sources of management.

Farmers' institutes conducted by the extension division of the colleges of agriculture.
year ended June 30, 1929

State	Number of institutes	Total number of days conducted	Total number of sessions	Total attendance	Number of different persons who gave lectures					Amount of State appropriation used	Amount of other funds used
					From extension staff	From experiment station staff	From State dept. staff	From special force employed for institutes	Total number of lecturers		
Ga.	18	36	72	33,000	10				10	$ 1,040.71	$ 1,700.00
Ind.	435	497	994	158,982	4	2	1	38	45	13,594.17	19,973.93
N. Y.	68	68	107	3,440	14			7	21	3,314.59	60.25
Ohio	783	1,453	3,643	690,083	3	3		90	96	18,092.54	12,430.26
S. D.	82	103	268	24,215	7	5		9	21	1,697.61	3,454.39
Tenn.	3	6	12	5,700	5	6	3	5	19	3,000.00	
W. Va.	60	75	135	11,000	12	4	2	2	20		
Wis.	669	695	1,179	94,872	30	3	9	41	83	30,000.00	
Total											
1929	2,118	2,933	6,410	1,021,292	85	23	15	192	315	70,739.62	37,618.83
1928	1,972	2,971	6,872	1,095,436	117	34	8	180	339	73,542.07	37,836.52
1927	1,985	2,880	6,603	962,211	104	12	8	184	308	59,645.74	28,452.53
1926	2,130	2,954	6,556	969,864	93	15	3	215	326	63,022.83	25,139.60
1925	1,860	2,837	6,508	1,011,399	181	32	12	218	443	63,680.27	28,448.75

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Farmers' institutes conducted by the State departments of agriculture, year ended June 30, 1929

State	Number of institutes	Total number of days conducted	Total number of sessions	Total attendance	Number of different persons who gave lectures					Amount of State appropriations used	Amount of other funds used
					From extension staff	From experiment station staff	From State dept. agri. staff	From special force employed for institutes	Total number of lecturers		
Ill.	205	537	1,610	131,570		37	3	144	184[1]	$ 30,114.14	$ 4,865.00
Iowa	77	246	609	95,622					218	4,295.51	17,748.86
Maine	200	225	400	18,000			9	3	12	2,250.00	
Total											
1929	482	1,008	2,619	245,192		37	12	147	414	36,659.65	22,613.86
1928	573	849	2,154	258,407	119	40	20	241	420	39,993.96	24,429.59
1927	275	545	1,415	201,034	3	37	5	129	454[2]	68,032.53	14,000.00
1926	119	1,061	2,256	192,756	--	37	12	172	464[2]	70,021.46	31,452.96
1925	890	1,451	2,434	409,693	13	34	30	204	431[2]	23,182.58	31,308.06

[1] Includes 6 from other State departments than agriculture.

[2] Includes lecturers from other sources than those mentioned.

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